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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/826,831

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Hiroyoshi Kamoda

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EXAMINER

CULLER, JILL E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/826,831

Applicant(s)

KAMODA, HIROYOSHI

Examiner

Jill E. Culler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 April 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because in Fig 2, reference numeral 8, a register, and reference numeral 14, a feeder board, appear to be indicating the same part of the drawing. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objections to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed 09/19/01 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent; each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

It is noted that the document number on the form does not match that on the supplied abstract. In order to prevent confusion, the document related to the supplied abstract has been considered and noted in the examiner's Notice of References Cited.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 7, line 23, with reference to Fig. 2 and later description in the specification, it appears that

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the word "cylinder" should be the word "chain" instead. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 4-5 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 4, if applicant intends to positively claim "first drying means" and "second drying means" the word "a" should be inserted before "first" on line 2 and before "second" on line 6 in order to clarify the claim language. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

In claim 1, it is not clear what structure is intended by the "delivery unit" recited in line 9. From the drawings it would appear that the delivery unit, 16, includes some or all of the structure of the transport means, although this is not indicated by the specification. It should be made clear how these two parts of the structure are related.

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7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1-5 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, the recitation of "said quality inspection apparatus comprises" on line 19 is redundant because the structure of the preamble indicates that the entire claim is drawn to the quality inspection apparatus. It appears that the structure in lines 2-18 may be drawn to the double-sided printing machine instead of the quality inspection apparatus, in which case the claim should be rewritten to more clearly indicate exactly what is being claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP01316268 to Funada in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,448,121 to Uno et al.

Funada shows a quality inspection apparatus for a double-sided printing machine comprising: a printing unit, 1, for printing opposite faces of a sheet-like material; ink

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supply means for supplying ink to said printing unit, 35, 36, said ink supply means being supported to be brought into contact with and separated from said printing unit, see Fig. 2; and transport means, 22, for transporting said sheet-like material from said printing unit to a delivery unit while holding said sheet-like material,

Funada does not teach that said transport means includes a first delivery chain passing through a lower side of the ink supply means, a plurality of transport cylinders for transporting the sheet-like material from the first delivery chain and a second delivery chain for transporting the sheet-like material from the plurality of transport cylinders; said plurality of transport cylinders arranged in zigzag fashion along a vertical direction and including at least first and second transport cylinders; and said quality inspection apparatus comprises: first detection means for detecting a status of printing on one face of the sheet-like material when the sheet-like material is transported by the first transport cylinder; and second detection means for detecting a status of printing on the other face of the sheet-like material when the sheet-like material is transported by the second transport cylinder.

Uno et al. teaches a transport means including a first delivery chain, 20, a plurality of transport cylinders 12, 13, for transporting the sheet-like material from the first delivery chain and a second delivery chain, 10, for transporting the sheet-like material from the plurality of transport cylinders, said plurality of transport cylinders arranged in a zigzag fashion along a vertical direction and including at least first and second transport cylinders and a quality inspection apparatus comprising first detection means, 15, for detecting a status of printing on one face of the sheet-like material when

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the sheet-like material is transported by the first transport cylinder, 12, and second detection means, 16, for detecting a status of printing on the other face of the sheet-like material when the sheet-like material is transported by the second transport cylinder, 13.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the printing unit of Funada using the transport means and quality inspection apparatus of Uno et al. in order to be able to inspect the quality of the printed sheets while transporting them from the printing unit to the delivery unit.

11. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funada in view of Uno et al. as applied to claims 1-2 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,192,140 to Reinhard et al.

Funada and Uno et al. teach all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 1-2 except that the first and second transport cylinders are suction cylinders.

Reinhard et al. teaches the use of suction cylinders to transport sheets in a printing machine. See column 2, lines 37-39 and 47-50.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the invention of Funada using the suction cylinders of Reinhard et al. in order to better control the transport of the sheets.

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12. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funada in view of Uno et al. as applied to claims 1-2 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,794,856 to Giori.

Funada and Uno et al. teach all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 1-2 except that a first drying means is provided on the upstream side, with respect to the transport direction, of a detection position at which said first detection means detects the sheet-like material held by the first transport cylinder and a second drying means is provided on the upstream side, with respect to the transport direction, of a detection position at which the second detection means detects the sheet-like material held by the second transport cylinder, wherein the first drying means is disposed to face the first transport cylinder and the second drying means is disposed to face the second transport cylinder.

Giori teaches a drying means disposed to face a transport cylinder.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the invention of Funada using the drying means of Giori on each transport cylinder in order to be able to dry the printed material before it is inspected, minimizing the chance of smudging during or after inspection.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


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14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jill E. Culler whose telephone number is (703) 308-1413. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

jec
February 24, 2003



ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
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